

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/511,532

Applicant(s)

CASSAR, VICTOR E.

Examiner

Bernard Rojas

Art Unit

2832

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 07/24/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9 and 19-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-7, 9, 19-28 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest, in the claimed combination, a magnetic tape with a pair of flexible strips being connected in a face to face relationship with one another at a plurality of spaced-apart connection area to form a unit with a pocket positioned between each one of the connection areas, a first part of the unit being separable from a second part of the unit, each one of the connection areas: (a) having a plurality of regions; and (b) being separable along a separation line between the regions, the separation of the regions operable to separate the first part from the second part, the unit having at least one of a plurality of magnets being housed within each one of the pockets and spaced longitudinally along the unit in one or more rows, so that the magnets are operable to provide the unit with a plurality of magnetic regions enabling the first part of the unit to be: (x) magnetically attached to itself after the first part is separated from the second part; or (y) magnetically attached to an object after the first part is separated from the second part.

Claim 19, the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest, in the claimed combination, a flexible securing device with a plurality of sides connected by a plurality of connectors at a plurality of flexible connection regions, the assembly defining a plurality of pockets with magnetic members being positioned between the plurality of the flexible connection regions, the assembly being flexible between: (a) a first position in which the assembly has a non-loop configuration; and (b) a second position in which

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the assembly has a loop configuration, the assembly being separable into: (a) a reservable part having a plurality of the flexible connection regions; and (b) a retrievable part having a plurality of flexible connection regions, each with (i) a plurality of areas; and (ii) being separable along a separation line between the areas operable to separate the reservable part of the assembly from the retrievable part of the assembly, the magnetic members positioned within the pockets so that: (x) the positive polarity sides are adjacent to one of the sides of the assembly; (y) the negative polarity sides are adjacent to another one of the sides of the assembly, and (z) the retrievable part of the assembly is: (i) magnetically attachable to itself after the retrievable part is separated from the reservable part; or (ii) magnetically attachable to an object after the retrievable part is separated from the reservable part.

Claim 24, the prior art of record does not teach nor suggest, in the claimed combination, a roll of a flexible device, the roll with a plurality of connectors connecting a first side to a second side at a plurality of spaced-apart connection regions to form an assembly configurable in a roll form, the assembly defining a space with at least one magnetic member positioned between each one of the connection regions, part of the length of the assembly being separable from another part of the assembly, the separable part defining one or more of the spaces having at least one magnetic member; and being magnetically attachable to: (a) itself after the separable part is separated from the assembly; or (b) an object after the separable part is separated from the assembly.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

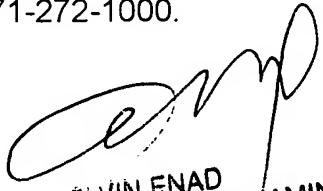
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Rojas whose telephone number is (571) 272-1998. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:00), every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Bernard Rojas*  
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ELVIN ENAD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
16 OCT 06